

the savage superstition of New England,
 that result was
 only to be expected.

The best that can be said of the social
 theory and
 practice of early Calvinism is that they were
 consistent.

Most tyrannies have contented themselves
 with tor-
 menting the poor. Calvinism had little pity
 for poverty;
 but it distrusted wealth, as it distrusted all
 influences

that distract the aim or relax the fibres of
 the soul,
 and, in the first flush of its youthful
 austerity, it did its
 best to make life unbearable for the rich.
 Before the
 Paradise of earthly comfort it hung a
 flaming brand,
 waved by the implacable shades of Moses
 and Aaron.*⁰